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1. Soviet Zone Population Queries.

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Questions currently asked by many people in the Soviet Zone concerning the policies of the GDR government and the Soviet Union include the following:

- a. Why is it difficult to procure potatoes in the GDR, and why are potatoes exported to an agricultural country like Poland? Why is so much of the land "given to Poland by the GDR" uncultivated?
- b. Why can industrial products such as radios, watches, bicycles, and silver be obtained only at the HO stores?
- c. Why has the amnesty for young persons who were sentenced in 1945 as NSDAP members, announced by Wilhelm Pieck on October 7, 1951, not yet been implemented?
- d. What is the real meaning of the slogan "Defend the Peace with Weapons in Hand"?
- e. Why were there no organized relief measures for the victims of the Pe River flood last winter, when there had been such assistance for the "fighters for freedom" in Korea?
- f. Why did the Soviet Union invade Poland in 1939? The present foreign policy of the Soviet Union is frequently termed "red imperialism" in view of post-war Russian activities in Finland,

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the Baltic area, and Bessarabia.

g. Why is there no evidence of an interest on the part of the USSR in the German people, to match the friendship being stimulated in the GDR for the Soviets?

h. Why are the German war dead not honored?

Other points of widespread interest to the Soviet Zone population are the distribution of gasoline, potato procurement, the distribution of butter and the cuts in electric power.

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2. Guide for FDJ Propagandists:

a. At the district school for FDJ officials at Paez, near Berlin, one of the courses currently being presented is entitled "Arguments of the Enemy". It is designed to acquaint students with questions most frequently asked of GDR propagandists, and to arm them with approved answers. The questions and answers provide a clue both to the main points of friction between the GDR population and its rulers, and to Communist reasoning when faced with embarrassing questions.

Ten main sources of popular dissatisfaction are dealt with in the course: the GDR election policy, the Volkspolizei, the NG state-owned retail stores, the uranium mines, the Oder-Neisse boundary, the better standards of living in West Berlin even for the unemployed, the Activist movement in industry, the nationalized plants, the high cost of living, and the need for "Lebensraum" to the East.

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Typical arguments and recommended answers as presented in the course are summarized below.

(1) The GDR Election Policy Arguments: Why were the elections (held in October 1950) deferred so long? The SED does not represent the masses. The Volkerat (from which the GDR legislature was formed in November 1949) was not empowered to elect a government.

Answer: Holding the elections earlier would have endangered the execution of the economic plan and delayed the raising of the living standard. Deferring the elections until October 1950 gave the government a chance to take the necessary steps to save the German people and to carry out a practical construction program. The Volksrat was elected by an impressive majority in May 1949, and hence had the right to form a government.

Note: The question of the legality of the single-list October 1950 elections is not discussed although it is evident from this and other reports that large sections of the population are aware that the elections were a fraud.

(2) The Volkspolizei Arguments: The police is an unnecessarily large armed force for which the people must pay taxes. Why do the police have such rigid discipline and order?

Answer: The Volkspolizei is recruited from the workers and hence defends their interests. It fights against warmongers and saboteurs and preserves the peaceful and democratic reconstruction of the GDR. It must be strong in order to defend the peace.

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(3) The Uranium Mines Arguments: Wismuth A.G. (the Soviet-controlled uranium-mining company) produces for war. Workers are forced to work in the uranium mines for the benefit of the Russians and under poor conditions.

Answer: Because the uranium ore goes to the Russians, the uranium mines strengthen the peace camp. Conditions have been improved, labor is now plentiful, and there is no longer any need for forced recruiting.

(4) The Oder-Neisse Border Arguments: Russia gave the area east of the border to Poland in exchange for part of Poland. Why do we agree to the Oder-Neisse line and protest foreign control of the Saar and Ruhr?

Answer: The Oder-Neisse line was first proposed by the Western Powers at Potsdam, over the objections of the USSR. When the West realized that Poland was developing democratically, it denounced the border. The GDR, however, recognizes the Oder-Neisse line as a "peace border", because anything which strengthens Poland strengthens the "peace camp". The Ruhr and Saar, on the other hand, are being exploited by the West as arsenals for a new war.

(5) Unemployment in West Berlin Arguments: An unemployed worker in West Berlin lives better with his 21 DM (West) support than a worker in East Berlin. Unemployment in West Berlin is the result of the "Russian blockade". Unemployment compensation in East Berlin is too low.

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Answer: The West Berlin unemployed cannot pay their rent and gas bills. They stand before full shop-windows and can buy nothing. Unemployment in West Berlin is a chronic condition and increases daily. Anyone capable of working can find employment in East Berlin.

(6) The Activist Movement Arguments: The activist movement is slave-driving. Payment on the basis of production (Leistungs-lohn) is the same as piece-work wages. Why is there no activist movement in private industry?

Answer: The activist movement is the way to increase production by the introduction of new and rational working methods. The worker in a nationalized plan knows that his work raises his own living standards; hence his own capacity for work is raised. In private plants, on the other hand, the workers are being exploited.

(7) Removal of Food Subsidies Arguments: Why are the prices for food always higher, although they are reduced in the HOs, where the workers cannot afford to buy?

Answer: The funds previously used for food subsidies will now be put into the "peace economy", thereby raising the living standard. The workers' living standards have been raised so much in the GDR that small increases in food prices are unimportant. Price reductions in the HO enable larger segments of the working population to buy there.

b. While the course does not represent a high theoretical

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level, it does constitute an excellent example of the methods of communist propagandizing: suppression or distortion of unpalatable facts - e.g., the October elections, the USSR's support of the Oder-Neisse line -- together with an attempt to establish a system of unchallengeable postulates: e.g., a gun in the hands of a worker is an instrument of peace; anything which benefits the USSR or its orbit automatically means peace; the GDR government always knows best. At the same time the subjects chosen for treatment give an indication of the chief difficulties facing GDR propagandists -- difficulties which adroit western propaganda can increase.

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3. NDP Lower Echelon Deviations.

A recent NDP investigation of its leadership in several communities indicates that opposition to the policies of the GDR government and the SED is being openly expressed in these areas, and that lower echelon NDP functionaries are refusing to implement party policy that SED functionaries are final authorities on NDP party matters. The following instances of unsatisfactory attitudes, disclosed by the investigation, are probably fairly typical of lower echelon functionaries in the GDR generally.

a. The NDP is openly competing with the SED in recruiting workers for the party, and, in some cases, attempts to recruit SED members.

NDP functionaries under investigation expressed pride in the increased representation of the working class in the

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party, and stated they would continue to recruit these persons, especially in the nationalized plants. These functionaries explained that since the party was founded, it had attempted to represent the interests of all the people, and that it had never refused to admit persons because they were workers. Other functionaries candidly stated that the policies of the SED were not in the interest of the working population.

(Originally founded to attract former professional soldiers and members of the Nazi party, the NDP last year expanded its recruiting efforts to include artisans and white collar workers. NDP leaders announced at the party congress last June, however, that it had no intention of competing with the SED for labor members.)

b. Despite directives stating that the NDP will remain subservient to the SED, NDP functionaries refuse to consult local SED leadership before making decisions, and refuse to respect the right of that party to reject NDP representatives to joint committee meetings which they consider too "bourgeois". (Co-ordination of NDP-SED party work is supposed to take place through weekly meetings of NDP functionaries with SED Kreis Secretaries.)

c. NDP functionaries under investigation consider continued participation of the party in the Democratic Bloc useless, since all decisions taken are determined by the SED. Further dissatisfaction with the servile status of the party is indicated by the complaint that the NDP party program is chiefly execution of the

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propaganda program of the National Front.

d. NDP functionaries note that although the party program calls for continued existence of the middle class, small manufacturers, private retail businessmen, and artisans are being forced out of existence. The same persons charge that equality of all citizens, guaranteed in the GDR constitution, is continually violated by the existence of groups such as government administrative personnel and persons connected with the judiciary who receive economic privileges.

The dissatisfaction of NDP lower echelons with SED domination and the tendency of NDP members to become "bourgeois" have attracted the attention before of NDP party headquarters. More stringent corrective measures will include increased supervision by party headquarters of all lower echelons, detailed investigations of the political reliability of community level functionaries, and strong emphasis on party schooling of all functionaries and new recruits.

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4. Problems of GDR Farmers:

dissatisfaction of farmers there with the government policy of setting delivery quotas in the face of conditions which make it impossible to fill the quotas. The following problems are

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most pressing:

a. The continuous departure of agricultural workers from their jobs is affecting privately-owned as well as nationalized farms. Even working late at night and on Sundays many farmers have not been able to fill their quotas or complete fall plowing, and have found it necessary to decrease the acreage under cultivation on their farms.

b. Other factors responsible for the fact that fall plowing was not completed include an acute shortage of gasoline and oil for tractors and plows, and the fact that these machines could not be used at all during much of the bad fall weather because the machine lending stations lacked chains and spare parts.

c. The farmers do not understand why quotas for 1952 have been raised again since 1951 quotas could not be filled and agricultural conditions are so discouraging that many farmers are abandoning their land altogether.

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b. Other factors responsible for the fact that fall plowing was not completed include an acute shortage of gasoline and oil for tractors and plows, and the fact that these machines could not be used at all during much of the bad fall weather because the machine lending stations lacked chains and spare parts.

c. The farmers do not understand why quotas for 1952 have been raised again since 1951 quotas could not be filled and agricultural conditions are so discouraging that many farmers are abandoning their land altogether.

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